

ILECs operate an "essential facility", yet steadfastly fail to innovate in the area of services and pricing. NYTEL/NYNEX/Verizon is one such example; competing LECs were the first to offer broadband via my CO.

ILECs should be obligated to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. Wholesale provisioning has and will continue to stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers.

To fail to do so would cripple the intent of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Chairman Powell and FCC Members: Consider the shoddy track record of ILECs. Don't stifle competition. Mandate facilities sharing as presently exists.

Thank you.